

the ground he tills? We hear a great deal of talk about manures. Let us not deceive ourselves. What is furnished by the farm-yard is valuable, and should be managed with skill and care, but it is entirely inadequate to the great end we have in view, the communication of fertility to the whole soil of North-Carolina. Let us not depend upon a resource which will disappoint our expectations. What then is to be done? Are our old fields to be condemned like the sands of Arabia to everlasting barrenness and sterility? The great desideratum for the improvement of the Agriculture of North-Carolina, is some vegetable of vigorous growth, which shall cover our fields from the burning sun during the heats of summer, and in the fall shall furnish a large body of vegetable matter to be ploughed in for the enrichment of the soil. The man who shall point out such a vegetable to the attention of our planters, and teach us the proper manner of cultivating it, will do more for the improvement of our agriculture than the whole herd of experimenters on the effects of animal manures put together. The best discovery, or the best essay in relation to this matter, should be a standing subject for a prize in every Agricultural Society in the State, for the next twenty years to come. Whether we shall ever meet with a plant which shall be exactly and perfectly suited to our purpose, is perhaps uncertain; but when we consider how very rich the vegetable kingdom is in America, and how little it has been examined with reference to this particular object, we certainly have great reason to hope for the best. It is a point upon which Philosophers of the present day are pretty well agreed, that vegetables derive the greater part of their subsistence from the atmosphere. There are even some which will subsist on the atmosphere alone. The *Vanda Roxburgii*, an East India plant of considerable size, flourishes, blooms and seeds in a basket, with only a little moss, amongst which it may insinuate its roots, but without a particle of earth. Yet the *Vanda* would probably be found equal to any other vegetable of a like bulk as a manure. And in the same way which the plant we propose to employ, would derive its chief support from the atmosphere, and yet be ready the next year to deposit a large body of vegetable matter for the amelioration of the soil on which it grew. The common Red Clover is well adapted to some parts of the world; but the soil and climate on the east side of the mountains, does not seem perfectly to suit it. There is another species, which is called in the Botanical Books, the *Buffaloe Clover*, which has this to recommend it, that it is indigenous to our soil and has a rank and vigorous growth; but I am informed it is useless as a food for cattle. There is furthermore this objection to all the species of Clover, that they ripen and decay too soon. There are some species of Cassia, which are also natives, and which have been employed, as I am informed, to good advantage on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. They have this to recom-